



**For Immediate Release  
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## **STATE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) will host two public meetings concerning the management of state-owned forestland in the Berkshires.

The first meeting will be held on January 31, 2007, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Western Gateway Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 115 State Building, North Adams. The second meeting will be held on February 1, 2007, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington.

DCR will present information on the three draft Forest Resource Management Plans for the Southern and Northern Berkshire and Western Connecticut Valley Forest Management Districts. DFW will be present information on the first draft plan for the Taconic Mountains and Marble Valley Forest Management Zone (FMZ), and will also take public comment on the second draft of the Berkshire Highlands FMZ plan. Information presented on these plans will include their purpose, land management zoning, natural resources conditions, desired conditions, performance standards to meet the goals and objectives, and monitoring will be presented. The draft plans provide for conservation of biodiversity, integrate all natural resources, activities, and uses, and utilizes public input from previous meetings to formulate long-term forest resource management plans.

The meetings are being held to answer questions and to solicit feedback on the draft plans. Interested parties are also encouraged to submit formal written comments concerning DCR system lands to Kris Massini, DCR Bureau of Forestry, P.O. Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01202 or e-mail at [kris.massini@state.ma.us](mailto:kris.massini@state.ma.us) (Please clearly state which planning area—**Northern and Southern Berkshire** or **Western Connecticut Valley District**—you are commenting on) by March 16, 2007 or concerning Wildlife Management Areas to John Scanlon, MassWildlife Forest Project Leader, MassWildlife Field HQ, Westborough, MA 01581 or e-mail at [john.scanlon@state.ma.us](mailto:john.scanlon@state.ma.us) by February 16, 2007.

The planning documents will be available for review prior to attending the public meetings on DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry> and DFW's website at [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/draft\\_fmfs.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/draft_fmfs.htm).

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